

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

margins with black". De Beaufort (1940), too, mentions "three chalky white transverse bands, lined with black."

Day gives the habitat of *Premnas biaculeatus* as "Seas of India to the Malay Archipelago and beyond". This would lead one to expect that it is widespread along Indian coasts. However, this does not seem to be so. It is not recorded by Munro (1955) from Sri Lanka. If this species had occurred in South African waters, Smith (1953) would have given, besides its diagnostic features, an accurate colour description and a colour-illustration, as he based his colour plates on sketches made from freshly dead specimens, or, if this was not possible, on notes made at that time. Unfortunately, however, the species does not appear to extend to those seas, since he

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has recorded only two species of anemone fishes, namely *Amphiprion polymnus* (Linnaeus) and *A. bicinctus* Ruppell.

It is interesting to note that, on preservation in formalin, the colours of the specimen soon changed. Within a month and a half, the vivid yellow of the bands had faded to white, while the pale blue edging darkened to black. The brown coloration of the body, however, remained unchanged. It may, therefore, be remarked that the previous descriptions of coloration in *Premnas biaculeatus* have been based on preserved specimens.

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13. ON THE SPECIFIC VALIDITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE  
LOACH, *LEPIDOCEPHALUS ANNANDALEI* (CHAUDHURI)  
(CYPRINIFORMES: COBITIDAE)  
(With a text-figure)

Chaudhuri (1912) originally described *Lepidocephalus annandalei* based on the specimens collected from River Mahananda at

Siliguri and River Tista near Jalpaiguri, West Bengal (India). Subsequently, Shaw & Sheb-bare (1937) reported this species from River

Panchenai near Matighara (West Bengal). Thus *L. annandalei* is so far known only from northern Bengal.

A perusal of literature on the Indian Cobitidae reveals that there exists some confusion regarding specific validity of *L. annandalei*.

figure of *L. annandalei*, except in the disposition of barbels. The rostral pair is minute and narrow, the two maxillary pairs are distinct and close-together (inner pair is longer) and the mandibular pair is broad and well developed.

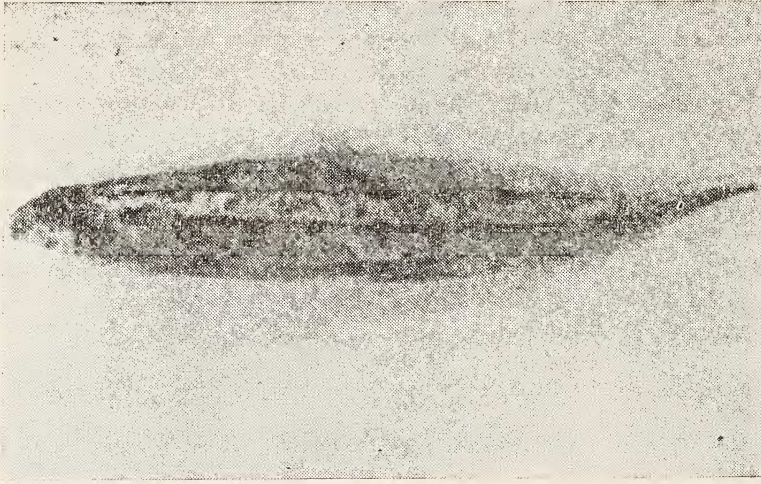


Fig. 1. *Lepidocephalus annandalei* (Chaudhuri).

Menon (1963), in his distributional list of fishes of the Himalayas, regarded *L. annandalei* as a valid species but later in his checklist (1974) of fishes of the Himalayan and Indo-gangetic plains, he considered this species as a synonym of *L. guntea* (Ham.). Similarly, Banarescu & Nalbant (1966), in their account of Cobitidae collected by the German-India Expedition, pointed out that *L. annandalei* may be a synonym of *L. thermalis* (Val.).

Recently, three specimens (29.0 to 40.0 mm in total length) of *L. annandalei* were found in the fish collection of Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary, Assam (India) which were received for identification from our Eastern Regional Station, Shillong, Meghalaya. These specimens agree well with the original description and

*L. annandalei* can be easily distinguished from its close allies, *L. guntea* and *L. thermalis*, by the characteristic body profile with an abrupt compression at caudal base and large eyes, the diameter of which is greater than inter-orbital distance and more than half the snout length.

The present record of *L. annandalei* from Kaziranga Sanctuary, which is situated on the southern bank of River Brahmaputra in Sibsagar District of Assam, extends the distributional range of this species considerably eastwards.

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14. OCCURRENCE OF THE ANCHOVY *COILIA KORUA* ON THE WEST COAST OF INDIA

The Rat-tailed Anchovy *Coilia korua* Dutt & Seshagiri Rao 1972 has been originally described from Gollapalem, Andhra Coast. The species can be identified on the following characters. Br. St. 10-11, D I 12, P xii-xiii (free filaments) + 5-7, V i 5-6, A 101-106, g.r. 23-26 + 30-33, scutes 7-9 + 9-11 (total, 17-19) and with maxilla not reaching the gill opening. *C. korua* occurs in Hoogly estuary (Whitehead 1972), at Kakinada (Rao 1975) and

Gollapalem on the Andhra Coast. The species is now being recorded for the first time from Bombay based on 5 specimens 93-106 mm S.L. collected on 14-i-1975 along with *C. dussumieri* and *C. ramacarani*. The following counts were made. D I 13-15, P xii (free filaments) + 7, V 7, A 104-110, g.r. 24-25 + 32-33, scutes 8-9 + 9-12 (total, 17-20). *C. korua* is likely to occur on the Southwest Coast of India also.

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